

REMARKS UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111

Formal Matters

Claims 7, 9 and 10 were examined and rejected.

Claims 7, 9 and 10 remaining pending after the amendments herein.

By this Amendment, claim 7 is amended. Support for the amendment is found in the specification on page 3, lines 1-2. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

The amendments to the claims were made solely in the interest of expediting prosecution, and are not to be construed as acquiescence to any objection or rejection of any claim.

Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments and reconsideration of the application in view of the amendments and remarks made herein.

Claim Rejections

Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Elder et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,770,560).

As amended, independent claim 7 further defines the first layer of the laminate material as having laser-ablated holes therein having diameters no greater than one micron. Elder et al. neither anticipates nor makes obvious the subject matter of claim 7 and claims 9 and 10.

Claims 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable in view of Elder et al. in view of Sumiya (U.S. Patent No. 4,786,558). In view of the arguments made above with respect to claim 7, claims 9 and 10 are believed to be allowable as Sumiya does not make up for the deficiencies of Elder et al.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claims.

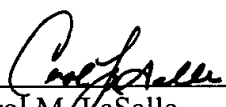
Conclusion

Applicant submits that all of the claims are in condition for allowance, which action is requested. If the Examiner finds that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment of fees associated with this communication, including any necessary fees for extensions of time, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0815, order number AERX-070DIV.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: 2/19/04

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